



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 11 July 2007

Present: The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor
Councillor Glynn Evans – In the Chair

Councillors L. Ali, S. Ali, Andrews, Ankers, Ashley, Barnes, Barrett, J. Battle, R. Battle Bethell, Bhatti, Boyes, Bracegirdle, Bridges, Burns, Cameron, Carmody, Carroll, Chohan, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cooley, Cooper, Cowan, Cowell, Cox, Curley, Fairweather, Fender, Firth, Flanagan, Glover, Grant, Green, Hackett, Hall, Harrison, Hassan, Helsby, Hitchen, Isherwood, Jones, Judge, Kane, Karney, Keegan, Keller, A. Khan, M. Khan, Kirkpatrick, Leech, Leese, Lewis, Longsdon, Lyons, McCulley, Morrison, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, P. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman S. Newman, O'Callaghan, Barbara O'Neil, Brian O'Neil, Parkinson, Pearcey, Priest, Pritchard, Ramsbottom, Risby, Royle, Shannon, Shaw, Siddiqi, Smith, Smitheman, Stevens, Swannick, Trafford, Walters, Watson, Wheale, and Whitmore.

Also Present: Honorary Aldermen Kenneth Franklin and John Smith.

CC/07/52 Visitors from Nicholas Varley and St Marks Primary Schools

The Lord Mayor welcomed to the meeting members of the Nicholas Varley and St Mark's School Councils, and he reported that the schools' councils had played a very important part in bringing these two schools together, including choosing the name of the new Park View School and new school emblem, and he presented to them a framed copy of the school emblem to be displayed in their new school building.

CC/07/53 Urgent Business

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had consented to the Minutes of the meeting of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee held on 11 July 2007 being considered as urgent business.

Decision

To consider the item referred to above as urgent business.

CC/07/54 Minutes

Decision

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

CC/07/55 Long Service award

The Lord Mayor presented a Long Service medal to Councillor Peter Morrison marking 25 years service as a councillor in Manchester.

CC/07/56 By-Election

The Council noted the election of Councillor Veronica Kirkpatrick at the by-election held in the Charlestown Ward on 14 June 2007.

CC/07/57 Proceedings of the Executive

The proceedings of the Executive on 30 May and 27 June 2007 were submitted.

Decision

1. To note the proceedings of 30 May 2007.
2. To note the proceedings of 27 June 2007 and to agree to a budget for the 7 Academies of £164.3m comprising Government grants, land disposal, £8m from the Capital Fund in 2007/08 to 2009/2010, and £12m from the Council's mainstream capital programme over the period 2007/2008 to 2010/2011, and to approve an increase in the Capital Programme to incorporate these changes.

Councillor Bracegirdle declared a personal interest as an employee of Manchester University.

Councillor Clayton declared a personal interest in Minute Exe/07/68 by virtue of his partner's employment.

Councillor Firth declared a prejudicial interest in Minute Exe/07/66 and withdrew during consideration of this item.

Councillor E. Newman declared a personal interest in Minute EXE/0768 as a Board Member of Willow Park Housing Trust.

Councillor Priest declared a prejudicial interest in relation to Minute EXE/07/68 as an employee of an academy sponsor, and withdrew during consideration of this item.

Councillor Shannon declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Minutes EXE/07/62 and 64 as a member of Mosscares Board; and personal interests in respect of Minutes EXE/0766 and 68 as an employee of Manchester University, and he withdrew during discussion on the former items.

Councillor Walters declared a personal interest in Minute EXE/07/62 as a Board Member of Mosscares Housing

CC/07/58 Questions to Executive Members

In accordance with Procedural Rule 22 –

The Executive Member for Children's Services responded to a question from Councillor Firth regarding meetings of the Young People's Council.

The Leader of the Council responded to a question from Councillor Whitmore in relation to his response to the petition signed by over 3,100 Levenshulme residents and presented to him by a delegation from the Friends of Levenshulme Group on the 18th May.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services responded to a question from Councillor Lewis about the target response time for undertaking repairs to highways and pavements, and the average time taken to carry out such repairs.

The Executive Member for the Environment responded to a question from Councillor Ankers about plans to improve the drainage system of the City of Manchester to prepare for the expected environmental impact heavy rain, as witnessed in the past couple of weeks and predicted to be the regular pattern of rainfall in the 21st century.

The Deputy Leader with responsibility for crime and disorder issues responded to a question from Councillor Pearcey regarding the recent Local Government Commissioner's finding against the City Council.

The Executive Member for the Environment responded to a question from Councillor Shaw regarding the independent survey requested in relation to the preservation of the remaining fabric of Barry's Unitarian Chapel on Upper Brook Street.

The Executive Member for Arts and Leisure responded to a question from Councillor Shaw regarding the proposed sale of land at Marie-Louise Gardens.

CC/07/59 Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Council noted the Minutes of the following meetings –

Children and Young People – 22 May and 19 June 2007
Citizenship and Inclusion – 23 May and 20 June 2007
Communities and Neighbourhoods – 22 May and 19 June 2007
Economy, Employment and Skills – 23 May and 20 June 2007
Health and Well-being – 24 May and 21 June 2007
Resources and Governance – 24 May and 21 June 2007

CC/07/60 Minutes of Committees of the Council

The Minutes of the following meetings were submitted –

Audit Committee – 1 and 29 June 2007

Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 11 July 2007
Licensing and Appeals Committee – 4 June 2007
Personnel Committee – 20 June 2007
Planning & Highways Committee – 31 May and 28 June 2007
Standards Committee – 25 June 2007
Wythenshawe Area Committee – 24 May and 29 June 2007

Decision

1. To approve the proceedings of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 11 July 2007.
2. To approve the following Hackney Carriage Fare increases recommended by the Licensing and Appeals Committee -
 - a) An increase in daytime fares of 7.57% and night-time fares of 7.44% to bring fares in line with the average of the Core Cities and maintain the night-time differential.
 - b) To apply the Halcrow formula to the daytime and nighttime waiting time rate.
 - c) To use the Halcrow Manchester Formula to calculate future fare increases annually.
3. To note the minutes of the other meetings which were acting under delegated powers

CC/07/61 Business of Joint Authorities

No questions were raised in accordance with Procedural Rule 24 on the business of Greater Manchester Fire and Civil Defence Authority, Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, Greater Manchester Police Authority, and Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

CC/07/62 Revised Model Code of Conduct for Members

The Council considered a report of the City Solicitor in relation to the revised Model Code which came into force on 3 May 2007, and proposals for the City Council to adopt the revised Code in place of the existing Code.

Decision

1. To note the provisions of the Revised Code and that the City Solicitor has invited all members and co-opted members to attend one of the briefing sessions on the Revised Code.
2. To adopt the following recommendations of the Standards Committee as a resolution of the City Council:
 - (i) To adopt the Revised Code in place of the Existing Code (including as a preamble the ten general principles governing the conduct of members);

- (ii) To instruct the City Solicitor to:
 - (a) provide all members and co-opted members with a copy of the Revised Code and, where appropriate, a written declaration undertaking to observe its provisions following adoption in place of the Existing Code;
 - (b) notify all members and co-opted members of the requirement to renew their registrations of interests;
 - (c) notify the Standards Board for England when the City Council has adopted the Revised Code and provide them with a copy of it; and
 - (d) publish a notice in a local newspaper stating that the City Council has adopted the Revised Code detailing where copies are available for public inspection and ensure copies are available for inspection.
- (iii) to delegate authority to the City Solicitor to make the amendments to the Constitution referred to in the report and those set out in Appendix B, together with any further consequential amendments following adoption of the Revised Code.
- (iv) to recommend that the City Solicitor develop a protocol setting out the City Council's reasonable requirements that members must comply with before making any confidential disclosure.

CC/07/63 Key Decisions exempted from call-in

The Council noted a report of the City Solicitor.

CC/07/64 War in Iraq

Motion made and seconded

The Council welcomes the three events that took part in the City Centre on Sunday 24 June: the special Labour Party conference, the protest march by the Stop the War Coalition, the Veterans' Day celebrations at the Town Hall.

This Council regrets

- 1) The deaths of over 150 British servicemen and servicewomen in Iraq including casualties from Greater Manchester.
- 2) The enormous loss of life of Iraqi civilians.

This Council believes

- 1) That there should be a controlled exit of British Troops from Iraq.
- 2) That exit must be done in such a way as to minimise risks to other coalition forces and also avoid exacerbating the violence.

This Council reiterates

- 1) Our opposition to Britain's involvement in the war in Iraq.

This Council resolves to lobby the new Prime Minister for the withdrawal of British Troops from Iraq.

Amendment moved and seconded

To delete all words and to substitute the following –

This Council meeting notes the consistency of the Labour Council's position on the war in Iraq and draws attention to the following resolution passed by the Council in March 2003.

Unanimous Decision

Council endorses the letter written by the Leader of the Council to the Prime Minister and to Manchester MP's stating Manchester City Council's Labour Group's strongly held views on the current situation regarding Iraq. That is:

- 1. We totally condemn the current totalitarian regime in Iraq – a regime that has butchered hundred of thousands of its own citizens, that has driven thousands of Iraqi supporters of democracy and freedom into exile, and that continues to deny basic human rights to its citizens the majority of whom live in poverty despite the potential wealth of the country.*
- 2. We would not support unilateral action by the US or UK governments and demand that both governments continue to work within the framework of the United Nations to develop a lasting peace in Iraq which should start by ensuring that the weapons inspectors are given adequate time to carry out their work.*
- 3. We do not want to the UK to go to war. We consider a pre-emptive attack on Iraq is neither necessary nor justified and that it would produce incalculable risks to international peace and stability.*
- 4. In particular that should be no military intervention in Iraq other than as a result of a specific second resolution of the UN Security Council.*

Council instructs the Chief Executive to make copies of this motion available at Council premises throughout the city in a way that will allow Manchester citizens to signify whether or not they support the motion.

Council notes that on March 8th there will be an anti-war rally taking place in Manchester and agrees to take what action it can to support the rally and to urge Manchester residents and citizens of the wider area to support the rally.

Council urges the United Kingdom government to do everything in its power to curb the war mongering of the present United States government.

We also support the CND Peace Camp at the Peace Gardens behind the Town Hall. This will enable Mancunians also wish to attend an around the clock vigil against the war in Iraq.

In support of that position the Council notes that:

- 1 The Leader of the Council and Councillor Afzal Khan met with military families against the war when they camped out in Manchester.
- 2 The Council has supported numerous demonstrations and protests against the invasion of Iraq including the recent one on 24 June, 2007.
- 3 The Council currently sponsors the exhibition, "Queen and Country," at Central Library, of families who lost loved ones in Iraq.
- 4 The Council acknowledges the work done by anti - war groups throughout the City

This Council puts on record its recognition and appreciation of the bravery and courage of services people from Manchester who have lost their lives in Iraq. We regret the loss of life on all sides in that country. We were honoured to be involved in the recent Veterans Day when services people in all conflicts were remembered.

In terms of the future of Iraq and the Middle East, the City Council:

- i) Welcomes the current and planned withdrawal of our service people from Iraq and we look forward to our complete withdrawal consistent with a stable, peaceful democratic Iraq; and notes that British troops in Iraq are now under a United Nations mandate.
 - ii) We call on the UN to progress the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine which is at the heart of conflict in the Middle East.
- 5 We welcome the appointment of Mark Mallock Brown to the new Labour Government as International Foreign Advisor to Prime Minister Brown.
 - 6 We look forward to a new Democrat President in the United States committed to peaceful solutions in the Middle East.

The amendment being put the Council voted thereon –

For the amendment (55)

Councillors S. Ali, Andrews, Barnes, Barrett, J. Battle, R. Battle, Bracegirdle, Burns, Carmody, Carroll, Cooley, Cooper, Cowell, Cox, Curley, Fairweather, Fender, Flanagan, Green, Hackett, Harrison, Hassan, Hitchen, Judge, Kane, Karney, Keegan, Keller, A. Khan, M. Khan, Kirkpatrick, Leese, Longsdon, Lyons, McCulley, Morrison, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman S. Newman, O'Callaghan, Barbara O'Neil, Brian O'Neil, Priest, Pritchard Risby, Royle, Siddiqi, Smith, Smitheman, Stevens, Swannick, Walters and Watson.

Against the amendment (29)

Councillors L. Ali, Ankers, Ashley, Bethell, Bhatti, Boyes, Bridges, Cameron, Chohan, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cowan, Firth, Glover, Grant, Hall, Helsby, Isherwood, Jones, Leech, Lewis, Parkinson, Pearcey, Ramsbottom, Shannon, Shaw, Wheale and Whitmore

The Lord Mayor declared that the amendment was **CARRIED**, whereupon the amendment was then put and carried as the substantive motion.

Decision

This Council meeting notes the consistency of the Labour Council's position on the war in Iraq and draws attention to the following resolution passed by the Council in March 2003.

Unanimous Decision

Council endorses the letter written by the Leader of the Council to the Prime Minister and to Manchester MP's stating Manchester City Council's Labour Group's strongly held views on the current situation regarding Iraq. That is:

- 1. We totally condemn the current totalitarian regime in Iraq – a regime that has butchered hundred of thousands of its own citizens, that has driven thousands of Iraqi supporters of democracy and freedom into exile, and that continues to deny basic human rights to its citizens the majority of whom live in poverty despite the potential wealth of the country.*
- 2. We would not support unilateral action by the US or UK governments and demand that both governments continue to work within the framework of the United Nations to develop a lasting peace in Iraq which should start by ensuring that the weapons inspectors are given adequate time to carry out their work.*
- 3. We do not want to the UK to go to war. We consider a pre-emptive attack on Iraq is neither necessary nor justified and that it would produce incalculable risks to international peace and stability.*
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City Solicitor

**Lord Mayor
Chair of the Meeting of the Council**